

THE NEARCTIC SPECIES OF THE GENUS *CATERETES*
(COLEOPTERA: NITIDULIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

The new combination *Heterhelus sericans* (LeConte, 1859) is established for the nearctic species *Cateretes (Pulion) sericans* (LeConte, 1859).

According to Parsons (1943), Hatch (1961), and Gillogly (1969), the nearctic representatives of the genus *Cateretes* Herbst are *C. (s. str.) scissus* Parsons and the polytypic *C. (Pulion) sericans* (LeConte).

I studied some specimens of both species from Canada and U.S.A., and I came to the conclusion that, whereas *C. scissus* Parsons truly is a *Cateretes s. str.*, closely related to the European *C. (s. str.) pusillus* (Thunberg, 1794) [= *C. bipustulatus* (Paykull, 1798)], the species called *C. (Pulion) sericans* (LeConte) is not a *Cateretes*, and even less a *Pulion* (this subgenus is confined to the Mediterranean area only); it belongs to *Heterhelus* DuVal, a genus not previously recognized in the nearctic fauna. This species has all the taxonomic characters of this otherwise palaeartic genus: Pronotum with hind angles distinct (quite rounded in *Cateretes s. str.* and *Pulion*); prosternum between procoxae nearly as wide as first antennal segment (much narrower than first antennal segment in *Cateretes s. str.* and *Pulion*); ovipositor of female with very distinct styli at apex (almost without styli in *Cateretes s. str.* and *Pulion*); and pygidium of male at apex with 8th tergite visible (8th tergite not visible in *Cateretes s. str.* and *Pulion*).

Moreover, the ecology of this species (Parsons 1943, Hatch 1961) shows that it is an *Heterhelus*, since it lives on elder flowers (*Sambucus* spp.; Caprifoliaceae), as all palaeartic species of this genus do, whereas all *Cateretes s. str.* and *Pulion* live exclusively on rushes of the genera *Juncus* (Juncaceae) and *Carex* (Cyperaceae).

In conclusion:

Heterhelus sericans (LeConte, 1859), new combination.

Cateretes (Pulion) sericans (LeConte, 1859).

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